

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-17 correspond to Claims 9-23, 53, and 54, of parent Application No. 10/190,500, which were non-elected. Claim 1 corresponds to an amended version of Claim 9. A typographical error was corrected in the Abstract. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

The specification has been amended to amend the title and include U.S. priority information.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

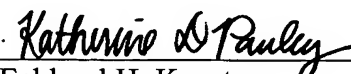
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